

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE MIDDLE DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

TAMMY KITZMILLER, <u>et al.</u> ,	:	Case No. 04cv2688
	:	
Plaintiffs	:	
	:	
v.	:	Judge Jones
	:	
DOVER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT, <u>et al.</u> ,:	:	
	:	
Defendants.	:	

MEMORANDUM AND ORDER

September 22, 2005

THE BACKGROUND OF THIS ORDER IS AS FOLLOWS:

Pending before the Court is a Joint Motion and Stipulation of Non-Parties, Joseph Maldonado and Heidi Bernard-Bubb, and the Defendants to Find the Non-Parties in Contempt (“Joint Motion”) (doc. 197) filed by Joseph Maldonado and Heidi Bernhard-Bubb (collectively “the Reporters”) on September 21, 2005. We also have before us a Motion to Quash Subpoenas or for Protective Order (“Motion to Quash”) (doc. 205) filed by the Reporters on September 22, 2005.

DISCUSSION:

A. Joint Motion to Find the Reporters in Contempt

In the Joint Motion, the Reporters and Defendants reiterate that our

September 12, 2005 Order provided that the Reporters may be deposed by Defendants with regard to a limited amount of information. (Rec. Doc. 197, at ¶ 9; Rec. Doc. 183). However, the Joint Motion provides that the Reporters “will not attend any scheduled depositions in this matter prior to exhaustion of their appeal rights.” Id. ¶ 10. Moreover, the Reporters and Defendants stipulate to the entry of a Citation for Contempt against the Reporters with a nominal fine of \$1.00 as a result of the refusal of the Reporters to testify at pre-trial depositions. Id. ¶ 12.

The Court is not inclined to allow the Reporters to be held in contempt by consent of Defendants. If and when the Reporters have been properly noticed to appear at their depositions and if and when they do not appear at such depositions, appropriate sanctions under the circumstances will be considered by the Court. The Joint Motion is accordingly summarily denied.

B. Motion to Quash

In the Motion to Quash, the Reporters request that the Court enter an order quashing subpoenas issued by Plaintiffs to appear and testify at trial in the above-captioned case. Alternatively, the Reporters request that the Court issue a protective order “limiting the testimony of Maldonado and Bernard-Bubb solely to what was printed in the published articles in issue and barring any questioning of Maldonado and Bernhard-Bubb as to any biases, opinions, motivations, mental

impressions or other information extrinsic to the published articles in issue, and barring any questioning of Maldonado and Bernhard-Bubb as to any sources, discussions, notes, documents or other materials gathered or created as part of their functions and duties in preparation for the published articles in issue.” (Rec. Doc. 205, at 6).

Despite the fact that subpoenas were just recently issued to the Reporters to appear and testify at trial, the Court is well aware that the Reporters have long had notice that they would be called as fact witnesses in this case. We find this Motion filed on the eve of trial to be both untimely and unconvincing. The Reporter’s Motion to Quash is therefore summarily denied.¹

¹ We also note we find it curious that the Reporters request the same relief, regarding precluding them from being questioned about bias, opinions, etc., as we have already provided to them in our September 12, 2005 Order concerning depositions. We have attempted to answer the Reporters’ concerns on several occasions, most notably by our two previous Orders on this subject (docs. 115 and 183). For this reason also we will decline the Reporters’ invitation to revisit their concerns. As stated, the Motions are not only untimely, but wearying as well.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The Joint Motion and Stipulation of Non-Parties, Joseph Maldonado and Heidi Bernard-Bubb, and the Defendants to Find the Non-Parties in Contempt (doc. 197) is SUMMARILY DENIED.
2. The Motion to Quash Subpoenas or For Protective Order (doc. 205) is

SUMMARILY DENIED.

s/ John E. Jones III
John E. Jones III
United States District Judge